

Racing Towards Perdition



The Questionable Spiritual
Foundation Of The
Contemporary Olympiad

Frederick Meekins

***Racing Towards
Perdition:***

***The Questionable Spiritual
Foundation Of The Contemporary
Olympiad***

by

Frederick B. Meekins

Copyright 2012 by Frederick B. Meekins
ISBN 978-1470109769
All Rights Reserved

Olympic Tyranny

Many Americans tend to see the Olympics as a festival celebrating the proverbial brotherhood of mankind. However, these athletic shenanigans may actually be a better representation of heavy-handed internationalism and the moral bankruptcy of postmodern culture.

A number of incidents have revealed that the International Olympic Committee may have more in common with a dictatorship than a corporate board whose sole interest is the pole vault and the pommel horse.

For example, the Olympic Committee demanded that the city of Atlanta promptly repair its public transit system, which began faltering at the commencement of the games. Unless there's been a coup, I wasn't aware that American municipalities had to answer the dictates of foreign powers and international institutions.

And according to the July 22, 1996 *Washington Times*, Georgians must take special pains to hide their Confederate heritage. On top of that, Americans are constantly badgered by media reports on how we are supposed to

pander to the cultural proclivities of visitors from outside our borders.

This is our country. If foreigners don't like it here, they can stay home. Just try taking a Bible to Saudi Arabia, even when it's American soldiers who risk their lives to save the heads of spoiled Middle Eastern playboys from the likes of Iranian revolutionaries and Saddam Hussein. So much for cultural relativism.

The social and cultural philosophy underpinning the administration of the games is equally questionable.

For starters, much of the opening ceremonies were nothing more than a glorification of postmodern narcissism. What half-wit dancers dressed like macaroni spirals, shredded handkerchiefs and broken erector sets have to do with the spirit of competition is beyond me.

Those governing the Olympic games are also partial in applying sanctions against rogue regimes.

For example, much to do was made of the fact that this was one of the first Olympiads attended by South Africa since the abolition of Apartheid.

The country was banished from the festivities while operating under that pernicious

system. Yet for years, Red China and Russia have been allowed to revel in Olympic glory while their own populations withered under the totalitarian yoke of world Communism.

And at the recent games, Libyan athletes, who should have been denied access to the United States, were allowed to wave their flag on U.S. soil in the faces of the families who lost loved ones in the Lockerbee Bombing. At the time, Muammar Qaddafi was still harboring the perpetrators of that horrific deed.

After the exposition of these Olympic-sized stupidities, anyone still thinking that internationalism and globalism are harmless schools of thought might like to buy a bridge over a non-existent body of water. If this particular ideology can't even effectively orchestrate a sporting event, how can anyone think it will ever effectively govern the world?

Olympic-Sized Doubletalk

Headline: “Puerto Rico beats the United States in Olympic Basketball.” What’s wrong with the above statement? Well, the last time I checked, Puerto Rico is part of the United States.

As such, shouldn’t Puerto Ricans pursuing Olympic glory be required to do so under the banner of the United States if they are going to enjoy U.S. citizenship? If they desire the benefits of being Americans, shouldn’t they want to be on the U.S. Olympic team?

More importantly, if we are going to permit such geographic and cultural separatism, to what extent are we going to allow it and on what grounds do we extend it to some but not to others? Some smart alecks will counter that Puerto Rico is not a state and thus not fully part of the Union in the same sense as those jurisdictions represented as stars upon Old Glory.

But neither is the District of Columbia. Does that mean Washington, D.C. should be allowed to have its own Olympic team?

And what about American Indian tribes? They’d surely clean house in equestrian and archery events.

Unlike residents of Puerto Rico who don't pay federal income taxes, residents of the District of Columbia are saddled with this form of revenue bondage without enjoying full legislative representation. The least we can do is to allow the District to enjoy the other forms of favoritism extended to other non-state areas.

If Puerto Rico does not want to be identified with the United States, so be it. But when they go, just make sure they know that they won't be getting any additional handouts from their rich, fat uncle that they don't like any longer.

Gold Medal In Arrogance: Olympic Officials Assume Godlike Powers Over Human Lives

During the Cold War, both sides used the Olympic games as a forum to rally world sympathy for their respective causes. But with the conclusion of that ideological conflict, it seems an act of Hegelian synthesis has taken place surrounding this international festival that would make Marx's whiskers tingle with delight.

Incorporating aspects of monopolistic capitalism and command socialism into their

managerial approach to the games, Greek officials and the International Olympic Committee planned to exercise a degree of control over spectators no human being should be allowed to exert over any other.

It has become common practice for major corporations to pay millions of dollars to have their names emblazoned across the public consciousnesses as being affiliated with the Olympiad. But instead of accomplishing this with witty advertisements during commercial breaks or less than inconspicuous billboards in every broadcast shot, marketers schemed to establish product dominance not through the rigors of free market competition but rather by emulating practices more in common with the arrogance associated with pompous bureaucrats and centralized planners.

According to the *Sunday Times of London*, spectators could be refused admittance to the games for sipping the wrong brand of soda or told to flip their shirts inside-out for displaying logos of corporations not coughing up the dough for the vacuous honor of being an Olympic sponsor. Just because these tycoons aren't confident as to the soundness of this investment is no reason to take out their insecurity on unsuspecting spectators.

It would be bad enough if game officials

concocted the excuse that no outside beverages could be brought into the venues for fear of protestors or other related leftwing Euro-trash using cans and bottles as projectiles and then sell gullible sports enthusiasts marked-up, water-downed soft drinks in dainty, sissy-sized cups. But how in the name of homeland security can you justify allowing someone to bring in a Coca Cola but refuse entry to someone should they have Pepsi or the local Wal-Mart off-brand equivalent let alone demand someone obscure nonobscene clothing logos if no functionally justifiable dress code has been delineated?

Fortunately, despite the socialist grandiosity of Olympic organizers, the public thwarted some of the ambitions of these aspiring potentates by utilizing the strengths of the free market system to thumb their noses at these petty micromanagers. Rather than subject themselves to such control, many Greeks forsook attendance and viewers tuned out to avoid being brainwashed or to at least to avoid the severe nausea that often results from exposing oneself to such globalist blather.

One disgruntled Greek told the *Sunday Times*, “I don’t see why, after all the money that Greek taxpayers will end up paying to host the games, McDonald’s should dictate what I can eat in my own city.” While it’s nice to cheer for

your country's team if you are from a country worth loving, there is nothing anywhere saying we have a duty to pay attention to the Olympics. Game overlords have not yet discovered a way to coerce such interest.

If International Olympic Committee officials and their sycophants in multinational corporations continue to undermine basic human freedoms (foremost among them being the right to consume whatever foodstuffs one has legally acquired irrespective of brand), hopefully this antiquated pageant of feigned brotherhood and other hypocritical drivel will once again go the way of the heathen deities such athletic spectacles were invoked to venerate as curious but best forgotten footnotes of ancient history.

Price Of Olympic Gold Growing Too High

With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the alleged demise of Communism, it was assumed that the Olympic games would no longer be as much of an arena for showcasing the competing ideologies of individual liberty and nearly total social control. And even though East German woman with mustaches no

longer quite raise eyebrows and hushed chuckles the way they once did, the Olympics are as much a battle for the minds of men as they have always been.

On the surface, it would be easy to conclude that the success of a country's Olympic efforts would be determined by its medal count, particularly gold. If that is the case, the world is once again presented with contrasting examples provided by the United States and Red China.

On the one hand, China won the most gold but the United States won the most medals overall if silver and bronze are also factored into the tabulation. To some athletic diehards, though, it is only the gold that counts.

A story titled "U.S. Will Be Rocked By China's Heavy Medals" by Yahoo Sports posted 8/22/08 analyzes the situation as follows: "The difficult thing for the Americans to stomach is this is unlikely to change in future games. This isn't a one-time surge by a host nation...Whether the U.S. holds on this time or not, eventually China's system, coupled with it 1.3 billion people, should be unstoppable."

Of this development, Peter Uberroth of the United States Olympic Committee said in the story, "It's going to be difficult (to dislodge China). The resources that they put toward

their Olympic team and the population base and the dedication is fantastic."

Even though it is inspirational when Americans take the gold in these events and our flag and national anthem are lifted above all others for the world to see and hear, this country needs to stop and think for a moment if emulating the Chinese approach to obtain gold is really worth it. For if we do, we will have turned our backs on the values that made America --- not China --- the beacon of hope to the world.

In the United States, individuals pursue athletic glory because that is what they want to do with their lives free of state coercion. In China, there is no such choice.

In an article titled "U.S. will be rocked by China's heavy medals", Dan Wetzel writes, "In China, they wouldn't have had a choice. A sports star, like the property a house is built on, is owned by the government...China selects athletes at young ages and pushed them into sports in which their expected body types might thrive. In the U.S., an athlete is allowed to follow his own path to success and failure."

Those having embraced the communitarian outlook growing in popularity in this country that conditions us more and more into accepting the arbitrary whims of the group

as superior to the prerogatives of the individual might not be able to fully grasp what this means really without explanation.

Though even in America those aspiring to athletic greatness must dedicate a seemingly inordinate amount of time to perfect their skills, often family especially in the form of parents are there in the background providing the kind of emotional and logistical support necessary to obtain this goal. However, things are quite different in China.

One report that aired on the NBC Nightly News during the course of the Olympic games showed a training facility where children no more than six or seven years old were warehoused around the clock like livestock as they were drilled in gymnastics by their Communist taskmasters. These children detained at the training camp were permitted to see their families only a couple of times per year.

Some made uncomfortable by such living arrangements that defy God's intentions for the family of parents being the primary caretakers and source of guidance in a child's life will try to console their consciences by positing that, even if we don't like it, it might be the only path to a better life for these children. Even through this grueling toil, there is little chance

of that.

In the United States, since the interests of the individual also carry weight and just not those of the larger group, there is emphasis (even if there are instances where the results have fallen short of this goal) of cultivating athletes capable of providing for and looking after themselves once their time in the limelight has transpired even if the life the athlete ends up with is less than the one dreamed of.

However, in China where the individual is viewed primarily as a cell within the broader social organism, this aptitude is honed at the expense of other skills since under Communism the person's worth is derived from what they can contribute to the overall group or nation.

Some will argue that this is all merely the rantings of an individualistic borderline-libertarian conservative who doesn't like Communism very much reading back into all of this. However, a quote from a 5/6/07 *Los Angeles Times* story titled "Athletes Are Run Into The Ground In China" proves that my assessment is not all that far off the mark: "The athlete's entire training is financed by the state, and successful athletes...are considered government properties who must do as their leaders say. Their job is about gaining glory for the country, not pursuing personal interests."

Some today who have an admittedly milder and diluted philosophy similar to this pounded into their heads by government, academia, and increasingly even by the nation's churches might initially respond, "What's so wrong with that" as they proceed to spout rhetoric about the wonders of community and the evils of self interest. However, in a land of over one billion people where the government owns you, once you break or are outdated by the newer model rolling off the assembly line, there is nothing to protect you from being tossed aside like yesterday's garbage.

For example, marathon runner Guo Ping thought that, once her days as an athlete were over, the government would reward her with a position as a police officer as her coach (who also beat those training under him with a whip or knocked them to the ground with the bumper of his car) promised. The coach's defense in court was that the beatings "weren't severe".

Unfortunately, such a case is not so much a rarity as it is the norm. According to a similar article titled "China's Disposable Athletes" published in the 7/17/07 issue of *Time Magazine*, nearly 3000 athletes retiring each year in China end up unemployed with educations barely beyond the primary level. One distraught female Chinese athlete

lamented, "I gave my youth to sport, but in return, I was thrown out like garbage with no knowledge, no skill, and a barren womb."

However, the liberal media is only willing to take its critique of world socialism so far. It has been jokingly said that the few remaining Communists in the world can be found on American college campuses.

However these subversives and their fellow travelers can still be found in many more places, especially among the ranks of prestigious journalists. For instead of blaming these outrages on the systematic dehumanization inherent to all forms of collectivism, the *Time's* article says, "The root of Zou's troubles, like so many things in China today, can be traced back to the country's wholesale adoption of capitalism."

Are you going to tell me things were hunky-dooey under Communism when millions were starving to death and the hungry resorted to cannibalism? Are you going to tell me it's Capitalism's fault today that house church pastors rot in prison?

What links each and everyone of these is a fundamental devaluation of the individual. Frankly, if that is what it takes to excel in the Olympic games of the 21st century, perhaps the United States should be proud of its diminished

Olympic prospects.

Dan Wetzel writes, "In the U.S., the athlete's goal is most often himself," and in appraising the decision of an athlete that pursues opportunities other than the Olympics, "No one in their right mind in the States would expect him to do anything else." Who needs a gold-plated trinket when you can buy the real thing?

Fashion Accessorizing Is Not An Olympic Sport

Olympic uniforms should not be cluttered with all kinds of extraneous personal messages no matter how patriotic such sentiments might be.

That is why they are called uniforms.

Supporting the troops should not be invoked as justification for wiggling out of reasonably agreed upon rules.

The flags of their respective countries is the extent of the pride athletes should be permitted to exhibit.

We don't need members of the Afghan or Pakistani delegations wearing "The Taliban Rocks" decals.

Olympics Subtly Lure Tots Into Paganism's Embrace

Over the past decade and a half or thereabouts, I have published occasional columns pointing out that there is more going on in terms of worldview at the Olympic games than good sportsmanship and keeping a stoic outlook no matter how disappointed one might be at the outcome of a particular event. These worldviews often come closest to public light in commemorations surrounding the games such as the opening or closing ceremonies.

For example, in an audio commentary, I noted the blatant paganism at the 2006 games in Greece where the ancient gods were not just depicted as curiosities of mankind's religious history with the possibility of a few moral axioms derivable occasionally from these myths when approached as literature. Rather, adoration of these entities was approached as a viable system of belief around which humanity could draw ongoing sustained inspiration moving the world towards cultural unification.

For the most part, such ideological manipulation was aimed largely at a generalized audience irrespective of age. Now it seems Olympic organizers may have more carefully

targeted their indoctrination efforts towards children.

During each Olympiad, mascots are created as appealing embodiments of each unique set of games.

For example, the 1984 Olympics held in Los Angeles were represented by Sam the Olympian, a bald eagle clad in red, white, and blue which alluded to Uncle Sam and the highest ideals of the American people.

It has been a quarter of a century since then and the practice continues. It is doubtful, though, parents with a lick of sense about them will be as enthusiastic about what is being pushed now as adorable imaginative companions.

The first outrage is really more economic than anything else. Though cluttered over with all the nauseating sentiments about international cooperation and competition being the focal point of the games, ultimately under the banner of these spectacles, significant amounts of money change hands.

No doubt, nice checks went to the firms and/or artists creating the mascots of the Vancouver games. What the artists this time deserve are gold metals for the least amount of work possible going into the artistic rendering of an Olympiad's mascots.

For example, Sam the Olympian was rendered with the skill, precision, and appeal for which 20th century Disney characters were noted and adored for by the public. One does not need to go into a lengthy back story to figure out what Sam the Eagle is and what he stands for.

This is not the case of the mascots of the Vancouver winter Olympics. In fact, the firm that designed the characters should have been paid no more for these renderings than one would a doodler in a high school art class. In the high school art class I was enrolled in, one would have received a grade not much above passing had one handed in something looking as ridiculous and simplistic.

What becomes really questionable, however, is in regards to what the mascots represent. The following comes not from conservative or even Christian fundamentalist conspiracy theorists, but rather from the Wikipedia entry for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paraolympic Games mascots.

Of the trio, the most realistic is a Sasquatch named “Quatchi”. That isn’t too bad. For decades, the Sasquatch or Bigfoot has been a cryptozoological curiosity of the Pacific Northwest.

However, in today’s world, it’s never

enough to let characters be huggable and adorable in and of themselves. Why waste an opportunity to manipulate young minds away from the values decent parents are trying to inoculate into their children?

Those that look closer at Quatchi will notice that there is a tattoo on his bicep. With over a third of the population mutilated and defaced in this fashion, do children of the world really need additional peer pressure as to this questionable form of bodily ornamentation?

The free spirits who are of a live-and-let-live mindset regarding every questionable practice with the exception of questioning the live-and-let-live mindset will respond, "Why are you fuddiduddies making such a production out of a simple tattoo that no one is going to notice?"

Oh really? If the bio-graffiti was not going to be noticed by spectators, then why did the artist take the time to add this particular design element? It takes so long to produce a finished artistic work that has to go through multiple editorial reviews that it is doubtful that any detail would be overlooked. And if the marking is not there for any particular reason, then why does it need to be there at all?

However, a tattoo strategically placed upon a mascot is not the only aspect about

these characters designed to subconsciously lead Western children away from the values of their forefathers. For even though the games are presented as belonging to the world, only Westerners of a multiculturalist inclination would be deluded into thinking that Westerners wouldn't be the only ones with enough leisure time to soak up the ambiance of the games as well as enough disposable income for all of the assorted trinkets pushed at spectators. After all, though they might excel at warm weather sports such as running, sub-Saharan Africans aren't exactly renowned for their alacrity to ice and snow.

The other mascot of the Olympics Proper is Miga, a mystical sea bear that is part orca and part kermode bear. In other words, unless the poor creature is languishing in a laboratory somewhere, which one shouldn't put past some deranged geneticist just for the Sheol of it these days, it doesn't exist.

Perhaps the most questionable mascot is Sumi. According to Wikipedia, Sumi is "an animal guardian spirit with the wings of a thunderbird and the legs of a black bear who wears the hat of an orca whale." In other words, it is a mishmashed critter that likes to cross dress.

Though there are numerous jokes that

could be made about these two, the important issue is the role guardian spirits and orcas that transform into white bears play in American Indian mythology and belief systems. From as much hoopla that is being made about so-called "native populations" of the Pacific Northwest, one would assume that no Whites lived there or at least ones that did not go around with their shoulders slouched and their heads hunched for simply being White. Since Whites pay taxes too and are less likely to be on the public dole, shouldn't they get some kind of honorable mention for contributing to the culture or at least the economy of the area?

Olympic organizers are no doubt playing up the animistic beliefs of the area's history for the very same reason that the Athens Olympiad played up that culture's pagan past. For the thing with the amorphous religiosity of the New Age movement under which both Greco-Roman paganism and American Indian shamanism both find acceptance is the idea that the realm of the spirit is coterminous with the physical world. As such, in this system, there can be no authority higher than the earthly institutions that embrace such a mindset.

As an antithetical perspective, monotheism cannot be countenanced since its God exists transcendent to the socio-physical

order. God decrees what is and is not right and good. He does not take the findings of committees into consideration and as such the authority of any committee is circumscribed by Him.

This essay should not be construed as a blanket condemnation of the imagination. For as a fan of speculative fiction myself, I don't even hop on the anti-Harry Potter bandwagon with the unreserved enthusiasm demanded by many rigorous theologians and Bible scholars.

Rather, what is being called for here is a notion of epistemological equality. It is quite obvious that a mascot with a Christian or even Hebraic background or origins would not be put up with.

At the Copenhagen Global Warming Summit, though the God of the Bible had the last laugh as He socked the proceedings with a blizzard, theophobes complained about evergreens planted in front of the conference center because some kook might misconstrue them as Christmas trees. The trees had to be removed in order to prevent any appearance of an endorsement of any particular religion at a UN function. Yet these very same environmental bureaucrats would support multiple layers of laws and regulations ranging all the way from international treaties down to

the minutest municipal statutes that would prevent you from removing trees from your very own property.

Proponents of the Olympic games might claim the festival is all about friendly competition and the pursuit of athletic excellence. Realists will point out that it has just as much or even more to do with money and power.

At the global level, the boundaries between government and big business grow increasingly blurred. Thus, at some point in terms of either direct sponsorship or roundabout subsidies, taxpayers around the world are at some level financing the Olympic games out of their own pockets.

Often, even if there is minimal public money flowing into a government agency or even a private organization, these administrative entities must go out of their way to guarantee that they in no way exhibit any kind of preference for one religious system or spiritual belief over another. This standard is especially applied to Christianity.

Though initially founded as a celebration in adoration of heathen idols, theoretically the contemporary Olympic games could be held strictly as a secular competition in terms of philosophical neutrality if its administrators

distanced the celebration from its questionable past and stuck to officiating athletic contests and races. Whatever path is decided upon, it will be a deliberate choice.

If those trusted with overseeing this event insist upon pursuing a manipulative mysticism, those redeemed by the one true God should first and foremost boldly warn what is rally going on beneath all the pageantry and excitement. Only then is the individual able to make a truly informed decision in keeping with their conscience.

About The Author

Frederick Meekins is an Internet columnist and blogger. Frederick holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science & History from the University Of Maryland University College, a MA in Apologetics & Christian Philosophy from Trinity Theological Seminary, a Doctor Of Practical Theology from The Master's International School Of Divinity, and a Doctor Of Divinity from Slidell Baptist Seminary. Dr. Meekins is pursuing a Ph.D. in Apologetics through Newburgh Theological Seminary.